

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the "Brief Description of the Drawings" with the following rewritten version:

- FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an earplug according to a first embodiment showing a first graphic design;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of an earplug according to a second embodiment showing a second graphic design;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of an earplug according to a third embodiment showing a third graphic design;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of an earplug according to a fourth embodiment showing a fourth graphic design;

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of an earplug according to a fifth embodiment showing a fifth graphic design;

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of an earplug according to a sixth embodiment showing a sixth graphic design;

FIGURE 7 is a general schematic drawing outlining a printing process according to the invention;

FIGURE 8 is a perspective partially cut-away view of an exemplary nozzle assembly for transferring ink onto a surface of the earplug to form the pattern; and

FIGURES 9A-9C are general schematic drawings illustrating the printing process according to the invention.